

Remarks

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-18 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 8, and 11 being the independent claims. New claim 18 is sought to be added. Claim 4 has been amended to bring it into conformity with U.S. claim drafting conventions. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

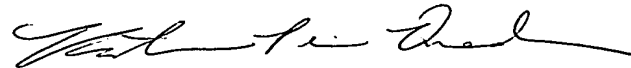
Support for the amendment to claim 4 and for new claim 18 is found, *inter alia*, in the original claims as filed.

Conclusion

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. Applicants believe the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: October 24, 2005

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